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he disclaims an intention to make a "cram" book, it is essentially that. The condensation, the selection of unsuitable and sometimes impossible material and subjects for beginners, the numerous errors of fact, and the crudity of many of the illustrations, some of which are utterly misleading, render the book valueless to teachers in this country. That it receives the hearty approval of a well-known English botanist in *Nature* indicates the wide divergence of standpoint in the teaching of botany in the two countries.—C. R. B.

To THE multiplying list of American schoolbooks Dr. D. T. MacDougal contributes a modest little volume,⁶ the most elementary of the recent ones, outlining "a study of the functions or action of the plants," whose "organs are considered chiefly as instruments for the performance of work, with but little attention to their morphology." The author thus depends upon the pupil's previous knowledge of the parts of plants, a knowledge which is amazingly scanty and inaccurate. However, by careful selection of topics and simple presentation, the author ensures the pupil, in the main, clear notions of the work that plants do.

But some topics are introduced in whose presentation the author is sorely hampered and of which the pupil is quite certain to get wry notions, because there is too little basal knowledge of the structures concerned. The most notable instance is in the section on "the way in which new plants arise," wherein the alternation of generations is discussed; a topic which the very elementary character of the book might well be held to preclude.

Nearly all the few defects of the book are chargeable to the striving after vividness, simplicity, and brevity, which are so dangerous yet withal so necessary in a book of this grade. That Dr. MacDougal has succeeded admirably no one who has tried to write a small and simple book will deny. We commend it to teachers who wish to interest pupils in plants at work.—C. R. B.

MINOR NOTICES.

AN elaborate monograph on the hemp, *Cannabis sativa*, by Briosi and Tognini, has been completed by the issue of the second part,⁷ treating in minute detail and most thoroughly the internal anatomy, the first part being devoted to the flowers. The whole monograph, comprising 271 quarto pages and 49 plates, is a monument to the late Dr. Filippo Tognini and to his botanical master and associate, Dr. G. Briosi.—C. R. B.

⁶ MACDOUGAL, D. T.: The nature and work of plants: an introduction to the study of botany. 12mo. pp. xviii + 218. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1900. 80 cts.

⁷ BRIOSI, GIOVANI E TOGNINI, FILIPPO: Intorno alla anatomia della canapa (*Cannabis sativa* L.). Parto seconda; Organi vegetativi. 4to. Dagli Atti dell'Istituto Botanico di Pavia II. 4: 168-315. Pl. 4-29.

THERE APPEARED, in 1896, as the Fourth Memoir of the American Folk-Lore Society, a volume by Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen entitled *Current Superstitions*, dealing "almost entirely with beliefs not of a zoological or botanical nature." Mrs. Bergen has recently contributed to the Memoirs of the same society another volume comprising, as its name *Animal and Plant Lore*⁸ indicates, only the folk-lore of animals and plants. This book will be especially interesting to those who have followed in the GAZETTE the same author's lists of the popular names of plants.

The table of contents of the second part, on plant lore, is at the outset instructive and interesting. There is a chapter on amulets, charms and divinations, another on omens, a third on weather signs, a fourth on folk-medicine, and finally one devoted to miscellaneous items which is no whit behind the others in curious and, to the scientific mind, astounding data. This folk-lore is furnished from a great many states, east, west, north, and south, and, as Professor Bergen suggests in his very interesting introduction, "if we cannot detect in it morsels from every country in Europe, from half the tribes of Africa, from a large part of Asia and the great Pacific islands, as well as from many tribes of American Indians, it is only because our analysis is not sufficiently minute."

As to amulets we find that nutmegs are regarded as a true panacea, being used to prevent boils, croup, neuralgia, cold sores (this latter in the neighborhood of Boston!) earache and sties. Mountain ash is used as a charm both of a good and bad nature, while dandelions and southernwood are prominent in processes of divination. The chapter on folk-medicine adduces many folk-remedies, which although probably the result of pure empiricism are not without foundation in fact; *e. g.*, the wide use of various parts of the elder, *Sambucus* sp. Extensive notes supplement the data given in the body of the book.

The value of the work done by Mrs. Bergen in collecting this material now can hardly be overrated. It is to be hoped that it may be continued until the annals of our American superstitions are fully recorded.—RODNEY H. TRUE.

THE TWO LATEST REPORTS of the state botanist of New York, Mr. Charles H. Peck,⁹ are for the years 1897 and 1898. They are in the main

⁸BERGEN: *Animal and plant lore*, collected from the oral tradition of English speaking folk; edited and annotated by Fanny D. Bergen with an introduction by Joseph G. Bergen. *Memoirs of the American Folk-Lore Society*, volume 7. 8vo. pp. x + 180. Published for the American Folk-Lore Society by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York. 1899.

⁹PECK, CHARLES H.: *Report of the State Botanist for 1897*. Reprinted from *Fifty first Ann. Rep. of the N. Y. State Museum*: 267-321, col. pl. A-B, 50-56 in 4to. Albany, 1898. 10 cents.

PECK, CHARLES H.: *Report of the State Botanist for 1898*. *Bull. N. Y. State Museum* no. 25, 5:619-688, col. pl. 57-61 in 4to. Albany, Oct. 1899. 40 cents.

similar to those which have appeared annually since 1868. Two decades of continuous and uniform labor, of the excellent quality shown by New York's official botanist, is a record of which to be proud.

Both these reports, like two of the preceding, have the plates in quarto form, but they may be once folded and conveniently bound with the text in an octavo volume. An innovation is introduced with the last report by having it issued in the series of *Bulletins* of the Museum, instead of being part of the *Annual Report*, as heretofore.

Each report contains notes upon a large number of species of flowering and cryptogamic plants of the state of New York, in part recorded for the first time as occurring within its limits. In the 1897 report twenty-five species of fungi are described as new, and six species in the 1898 report. The detailed account of edible fungi, with colored illustrations, is continued, twenty-three species being added in these reports. In the last report there is also an account of the plants on the summit of Mt. Marcy, whose height is 5344 feet.—J. C. A.

THE VOLUME of biological lectures given at the Woods Hole Biological Laboratory in 1898¹⁰ contains addresses of zoological interest chiefly. Some of the sixteen lectures treat large problems, and therefore deserve the attention of botanists, though the treatment is strictly from the zoological standpoint. The address by E. B. Wilson on the structure of protoplasm, that by S. Watasé on protoplasmic contractility and phosphorescence, and that by T. H. Montgomery on various nucleolar structures of the cell may be named as of most general interest. The volume should be indexed.

THE ELEVENTH annual report of the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden has been issued.¹¹ Extracts of the most general interest have already been given. The scientific papers include H. von Schrenk's paper on an important disease of cypress timber and a similar disease in the wood of the genetically related *Libocedrus*; J. N. Rose's description of the four agaves which flowered in Washington in 1898, including a new species, *A. expatriata*; J. B. S. Norton's monograph of the North American euphorbias of the *Tithymalus* group, amounting to nearly forty species, and several new varieties, all of them figured on good plates; and J. G. Smith's revision of the half dozen United States Species of *Lophotocarpus*, together with a description of a new species of *Sagittaria*, *S. Eatoni*. The volume needs an index.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETINS dealing with plant diseases, not heretofore mentioned in these pages, are as follows: A. P. Anderson (S. C. no. 41: 3-14. 4 *figs.*) describes "Rice blast and a new smut on the rice plant,"

¹⁰ 8vo. pp. iv + 343, illust. Boston: Ginn & Co. 1899.

¹¹ 8vo. pp. 151, *pl.* 58.